SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

THE GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS OF GOODS (REGISTRATION AND PROTECTION) BILL, 1999

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): Sir, I, on behalf of Shri Murasoli Maran, beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to provide for the registration and better protection of geographical indications relating to goods.

The question was put and the motion was adopted

DR. RAMAN: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

SPECIAL MENTIONS

Boycott of Manipur Assembly Elections by NSCN (I)

SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH (Manipur): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, Sir, for giving me time to raise a burning issue of boycotting the ensuing Assembly Elections, which are going to be held before March, 2000, in the State of Manipur, by the NSCN (I). Manipur is not covered under the cease-fire. The NSCN(I) is moving freely with arms. They are freely collecting tax from the people, right under the nose of the Indian Army. During the recent Lok Sabha Elections also they called for the boycott of elections. Now, they are collecting fines from the village people who cast their votes in the last Lok Sabha elections. So, the people are suffering a lot there. In the meanwhile, a new development has taken place. The NSCN-I has decided to boycott the Manipur Assembly elections which is to be held before march, 2000. In this respect, I would like to read out a report with your permission that published in one of the local English newspapers, that is, the "Imphal Free Press", dated 30th November, 1999. It says, "Despite the appeals made by various Naga political leaders, the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN-I) has declared that it would boycott the forthcoming assembly Elections in Manipur. Johnny Lamkang, Deputy Kilonser of the Ministry of Information and Publicity, GPRN, told the IFP, during a brief meeting here, that the decision to boycott the Manipur elections was taken during the winter session of the GPRN at its